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Suicide bombers kill 5, injure 15 in Kandahar

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Five people including a district assembly member were killed and 15 more sustained injuries when two suicide bombers attacked the Spin Boldak district headquarters in Kandahar province Sunday.

Two suicide bombers stormed the Spin Boldak district headquarters when a meeting of the district assembly was underway, a Kandahar press office statement available with the (AIP said. A portion of the building was completely destroyed in the attack, it added. The dead included a district assembly member, a vaccination worker, a minor, a shopkeeper and a civilian who had come to the district headquarters for getting his national identity card, the press release said. All the injured were civilians, it added.

The press release said three of the injured were taken to Kandahar City due to their critical condition, and that the remaining were being given medical treatment at the Spin Boldak district hospital. The security forces and other Afghan officials did not suffer casualties in the attack, the press release maintained.

Meanwhile, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the bombing and their spokesman Qari Muhammad Yousaf Ahmadi told the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) that two suicide bombers equipped with small arms stormed the district headquarters when a meeting of the district assembly was in progress.

"The mujahideen entered into the district headquarters after shooting dead the soldiers standing at the entrance. They fought for half an hour and then exploded themselves up. Several district council members, officials and security personnel were killed and injured in the attack," Ahmadi

claimed. He said accurate information about casualties could not be ascertained. Meanwhile, sixteen armed opponents were killed and 21 more arrested in separate operations in various parts of the country, officials said Sunday.

Four armed opponents were killed and 10 more arrested in operation of special unit of the Afghan National Army (ANA) in Wardak, Nangarhar and Helmand provinces on Sunday, a defence ministry press release available with the AIP stated.

It added three armed opponents were killed in Herat province while two more were killed in Helmand province, the press release added.

The press release said two would-be suicide bombers were arrested in Faryab's capital Maimana. Meanwhile, an interior ministry press release stated the combined forces killed seven armed opponents and arrested nine more during operations in Kabul, Uruzgan, Wardak, Ghazni, Khost and Farah provinces. It added 100 kilograms of ammonium was also seized in the offensives. Meanwhile, the Taliban rejected the official claims as false and said: "We reject the baseless claims of the enemy. The mujahideen have not suffered such heavy losses in these areas. None of the mujahideen have been arrested by anyone."

He said the Taliban conducted attacks on combined forces in Ghazni, Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Wardak, Logar, Zabul, Kandahar, Helmand, Herat, Badghis and Uruzgan provinces over the past 24 hours.